



In rummaging through Mr. Justspliced's A few weeks ago a well-known scientific

novels, and even to do needlework or eat sandwiches without bringing down the thunders of the sergeant-at-arms upon their heads.

♦ ♦ ♦

**Just So.**

From Harper's Bazar.

Little Elmer (who has an inquiring mind) — "Papa, what is conscience?"

Prof. Broadhead — "Conscience, my son, is the name usually given to the fear we feel that other people will find us out."

♦ ♦ ♦

Neh — "Mrs. Newrich wants to impress everybody with her wealth."

Belle — "But she never puts less than a five-cent stamp on her letters." — Philadel-  
phia Record.

**An Incident of Travel.**

From the Detroit Journal.

The woman and her children, native Mexicans it was plain, were crying bitterly.

"My husband is drunk!" sobbed the woman.

"But is this the adequate occasion for such tumultuous grief?" we asked.

"Si, senor!" said the woman in Spanish. "For a full stranger means an empty larder, don't you know?"

We handed her a fresh cigar; it was all the stately etiquette of the country permitted us to do.

The man had brought an extinct cigar

posite her was a dirty-looking fellow sitting opposite her hand looked as though they hadn't been washed for a year. He gave the conductor a nickel and the conductor gave her a lift over the young woman in charge for her dime. She placed it between her lips and the young woman in charge took it and opened it. It was as much as she could do to refrain from speaking to her about it."

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Anxious Mother—"Tommy, your teacher says you are the poorest scholar in your class."

Tommy—"That's nothing. It is only because I don't answer all the questions she asks me. I don't want to go to school to tell all you know to a woman, even if she does happen to be a school teacher."—Boston



## THE SKIES IN APRIL

THE SERIES IN THE

## HOW THEY GOT THEIR NAMES

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STUDYING NOVA PERSEI

Written for The Evening Star.

of the United States. Of the remaining fourteen which we may see at one time or another even will be above the horizon at 9 o'clock this evening.

Named in the order of their brilliancy, the stars are: *Aldebaran*, low in the southwest; *Capella*, at a somewhat greater altitude in the northwest; *Arcturus*, at about the same altitude as *Capella* in the east; *Vega*, too low to be visible, in the northeast; *Rigel*, in the left foot of Orion, at about the same altitude as *Arcturus*; *Saiph*, in the right shoulder of Orion; *Procyon*, in mid-height in the southwest; *Botelgeuse*, in the right shoulder of Orion; *Aldebaran*, barely above the horizon, between west and southwest; *Spica*, in the southeast, at one-fourth of the distance from the horizon to the zenith; *Deneb*, lux, the more southerly of the Twins (*Gemini*), at two-fifths of the distance from the horizon to the zenith; *Antares*, a Regulus, in the handle of the Sickle; in Leo, now, at the hour named, crossing the midline, at two-thirds of the distance from the horizon to the zenith.

introduced by Bayer about the beginning of the seventeenth century and now employed

universal in star charts and catalogues, each of these eleven stars is Alpha of the constellation to which it belongs, being the brightest star of the constellation. Thus Sirius is Alpha Canis Majoris, Capella is Alpha Aurigae, and so on. The popular names above used are of various origins, some ancient and some comparatively modern. The name Sirius is as old, at least, as "The Iliad" of Homer. It is probably, however, not a Greek word, but, like the name Orion, which also was known to Homer, it appears to have been borrowed by the Greeks from some other source. The significance of both these names is unknown.

of the goat which the wagoner (Amdiga) was supposed to carry on his left shoulder, while in his lap he carried the goat's three

kids. Now close beside the bright star Capella, may be seen three stars of the fourth magnitude, forming a very noticeable triangle, and which, as has been pointed out in these papers, are probably the original kids. Evidently the Roman rustics saw in these stars a goat and her young, and thus originated the singular name of the Hyades. The same rustic imagination appears also to have seen in the star Aldebaran and the cluster of the Hyades, beside it, a sow and her litter. At any rate, the popular name of the constellation was *Capra* or *Capellæ*, the *Goats*, and there is reason to think that this was also the idea expressed originally by the Greek name *Hyades*. That

find its way into literature, is quite consistent with what we know of the popular

fancies in naming stars and star groups. The Arabs are said to have called this star the Camel, the smaller stars clustered near it being "little camels." The name Aldebaran is Arabic. It is said to mean "The Follower." It seems to have a reference to the position of the star with respect to the Hyades.

"Bear-warden." Vega (or Wega) is the Arabic al-Waki, and is said to mean "The

Falling (Eagle). Rigel, Arabic Rūjīl, means "Foot." Procyon is Greek. It means "Before-dog," the reference being to its rising just before the "Dog," Sirius. Betelgeuse is the Arabic Bat al-Jauze, the "Arm-pit of the Giant." Spica is Latin; meaning "heat-ear." It marks the location of the sheaf in which the Maiden (Virgo) is supposed to carry in her left hand.

Castor and Pollux were mythological twins, the brothers of Helen and Clytemnestra, who figure in the Greek legends of the Trojan War. In the Middle Ages, they probably originally Night and Day, Castor being the Dark-one and Pollux the Bright-one. The names certainly did not belong

to have been given to this bright star in Leo in commemoration of the heroic self-

sagittae of the Roman general and patriot  
 Lucius, who returned to Rome after coun-  
 tering the Gauls. Lucius advised his coun-  
 trymen against making peace with the  
 city. It is more probable that the name  
 has an astrological source—that it is the  
 Roman translation of some such name  
 as "King" or "Lord," the constellation  
 Leo (having been astrologically the first  
 "sign" of the zodiac.  
 The names of the three other first-mag-  
 nitudes, which may sometimes rise, but  
 which are tonight below the horizon, are  
 Antares (Greek), the "rival of Mars," so  
 called because of its red color; Fomalhaut  
 (Arabic, Fomal Fut), the "mouth of the

Two very pretty constellations which are now above the horizon at the hour of our

observations are the Cup (Crater) and the Crow (Corvus), in the southeast. The bowl of the Cup is formed by a semi-circle of five or six stars, of which the brightest is barely above the fourth magnitude, its base being formed by a short line of three equally faint stars on the "preceding" or western side of the bowl. The Crow, on the other hand, is the more conspicuous than the Northern Crown, which it somewhat resembles, though consisting of fainter stars. The whole group makes a very passable goblet, a little lopsided, however.

The star, which made its name from the Cup, is the more conspicuous than the latter, its stars being brighter; but it is not so "like" as a constellation. Its four

equal-sided square, of about the size of the bowl of the Great Dipper. The brightest of the stars, of the third magnitude, is at the lower left-hand corner, and is the Crow's feet. This star bears the Arabic name Alchiba, which means "tent," and doubtless was applied originally to the whole constellation, which certainly resembles a tent quite as closely as it does a bird.

Both the Cup and the Crow stand on the back of the Hydra, or Water-snake; a constellation chiefly remarkable for its enormous length of over one hundred degrees. The stars of this constellation are formed by a small curved group of three, or certain stars — a very pretty opera glass object — situated about midway between Regulus and Procyon, and the stars of the Hydra, a star of the second magnitude, may be seen about twenty degrees below and at the right of Regulus. Owing to the paucity in this constellation of stars of the first "heart" is a conspicuous object. The

### The Planetoid Eros.

The observations of Eros which have been in progress at all of the large observatories since early last autumn—undertaken for the purpose of obtaining a new determination of the sun's distance from the earth—are now nearly completed. In charge of the observations, at the head of the observing party, was M. Loewy, director of the Paris observatory, and assisted by several participating observatories with the results obtained at all of the other observing stations. The observations at the Paris observatory, a work requiring much time and labor, will doubtless be made independently by other observatories.

Dr. Oppolzer announced some time ago that he had discovered that Eros varies in brightness to such an extent of about one magnitude, and that the period of variation is about six hours. Two different explanations have been advanced in support of his suppositions. The first is that Eros is a binary system, the other that it is not of a spherical form, but one that is flattened.

in extent. The diameter of this tiny celestial can hardly be over twenty miles, and possibly is much less than that.

**The New Star in Perseus.**  
The position of the new star discovered in Perseus on the morning of February 21 by Dr. T. D. Anderson of Edinburgh, is shown on the chart given herewith. When discovered it was estimated to be of magnitude 2.7. Prof. C. B. Frost of the Dartmouth College observatory discovered the star independently on the evening of February 22 when to his eye it was brighter than a standard star of the first magnitude. On the 24th Sir Norman Lockyer estimated it to be brighter than Capella, and the same case was made for the brilliancy was made on the same day at the Lick

This "nova" is the most considerable ob-

fect of its kind that has appeared since "Kepler's star," which broke out in the lower part of Ophiuchus in 1604, and which appearance have been comparable in brightness with the plumes of the comet of 1570 in Bhahe's star," which suddenly appeared in Cassiopeia in November, 1572, is the brightest on record—as well as the first well-authenticated case of a new, or temporary, star—when at its brightest, it was scarcely inferior to the standard star. The nova which appeared in the Northern Crown in May, 1866, was of the second magnitude when first seen. It diminished in brightness to the third magnitude within two days after its discovery. It was far brighter

the heavens is a still debated question. In some cases the nova has proved to be a star already catalogued, which has suddenly

burst into unwonted brilliancy; and in several cases the "star" has ended by becoming a nebula. All of the recorded novae have appeared in or near the Milky Way, and the stars that do not give rise to operations taking place regularly in a particular region of the heavens. The opinion now prevalent among astronomers seems to be that they are due to collisions, one or both of the colliding objects being a body of matter of great density. In the use of the spectroscope has been turned upon them it has been found that a part of their light—probably the greater part—comes from glowing gases, of which one is the everywhere present hydrogen.

March 7, and will be visible as such throughout the month.

Venus will be a morning star until the 30th, but not visible, and after that date an evening star for the remainder of the year. Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus are morning stars, the first two in Sagittarius, the last in the Scorpion. All three run so low as to be unfavorably situated for telescopic ob-

reigning evening star, crossing the meridian at about 9 p.m. During the last month it "retrograded" across the handle of the

Sickle, and is now west of Regulus. There is no mistaking its brilliant ruddy light. From this time on its course will be "direct," or toward the east. It will first take a downward curve and will pass quite near to the star Regulus. It is now midsummer in the northern hemisphere of Mars. The north "polar cap" has decreased very noticeably in the last three weeks, and is now barely perceptible through a small telescope.

**A Bad Trade in the Klondike.**  
From the New York Mail and Express.  
"You simply go bl blind in staking out a claim," said a returned Klondiker, "and

year ago. We all heard that there was gold in a certain section not far from our mine, and accordingly there was a prospect

"It's all luck," they said, "and we want to work our claims together. Now you take either one of ours; it won't make any difference to us, and will help us out."

"The other man said he would gamble anyway, so he chose the right-hand claim in exchange for his own. That was a year ago. I see two men who are working their claims now, and they have made a thing."

"While the other has already taken for \$1,000,000 out of his. Queer, isn't it?" he